

TOWN OF WILTON

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

Date: February 10, 2014

Time 6:30 P.M.

Place: Town Office

Present: Chairman Daniel E. Donovan, III, Selectmen William F. Condra and Richard E. Swanson, and Recording Secretary Pamela Atwood.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Chairman Donovan. The Board noted that Home Farm Realty Trust/Matthew Fish dropped off a Trustee Certificate and Bond check as requested. The Bond check will be deposited.

Pam reported that the repairs to the leaking steam pipe in the theatre bathroom had been completed.

The Board discussed the proposal for the Frye Mill Road Bridge. Motion: Chairman Donovan made a motion to approve the Frye Mill Road Bridge contract subject to approval of funding at Town Meeting. The motion was seconded by Selectman Swanson and followed by a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

The Selectmen and the audience had a discussion about the current School District issues.

The Board approved two reports for submission into the Town Report. Selectman Swanson asked if it would be appropriate to submit a report from the Energy Committee. The other two Selectmen agreed that it would be.

The Board discussed the previous Budget Committee meeting. They discussed ways to streamline the budget process for next year.

Selectman Swanson thinks the Board needs to hang tough with what the Budget Committee recommends. Chairman Donovan said that there are so many costs that are out of their control that the only place you can take it from is personnel, unfortunately.

The minutes were approved.

The Accounts Payable manifests were approved.

Payroll for period ending 2/8/14 was signed.

Chairman Donovan informed the Board that Jerry Greene mentioned setting up a study committee to research bringing the Water Commission under the Town. Chairman Donovan told what had been done in the past to see what was needed to bring the Water Commission under the Town. Selectman Condra talked about his prior frustration with the bickering that took place between the previous Commissioners and at that time he talked about getting the Water Commission under the Town. However, with the change in Commissioners the bickering doesn't happen any longer; so as a member of the Water Commission, Bill may not be in favor of repealing the Commission. He stated that it is a task to do so. It takes an act of the State Legislature. Chairman Donovan said it was talked about back when Dick Rockwood was a Selectman and he talked to Attorney Little about it. Dan said the Water Department seemed to be running smoother recently. But he is concerned as to why the Town owns two dams that exist only for use of the Water Department. He mentioned having obtained a copy of the charter. The Town obtained the Bond to finance the Old Reservoir and the Town's credit was used for this Bond, and Dan doesn't know if it was ever reimbursed. Also, he has no idea why the Town took title to the New Reservoir. The only benefit is for the water users.

Selectman Swanson agrees that it should be studied first to see what makes sense. Selectman Condra would support that. Chairman Donovan stated that the previous billing problems have been straightened out, noting that Jane's office does the billing. He said that the idea to do quarterly billing was the previous Commissions desire and that the Water Department pays an administrative fee for billing. The Selectmen agreed to do a study. Jerry Greene and Dan Donovan have volunteered for the committee and will begin in April of 2014. Chairman Donovan said if they were to convert to a village district, then only the water users would be entitled to vote.

Selectman Condra updated the Board on the Town Hall repair project, stating that he will work with John, Jane, and Pam to develop an RFQ

for the job.

Chairman Donovan talked about the Florence Rideout Elementary School project and the presentation made by the school officials. The School Board is asking for an endorsement of the project by the Selectmen.

Motion: Chairman Donovan made a motion that the Board of Selectmen endorses the consolidation plan and the proposed FRES renovation project. The motion was seconded by Selectman Condra followed by a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Chairman Donovan suggested that the Board of Selectmen sponsor a candidate's night that would have questions provided to the candidates beforehand. Selectman Condra stated that he is opposed to having elected officers (the Selectmen) sponsoring this type of event; he feels that it should be non partisan. He thinks it should be outside the realm of the office the candidates seek. It was suggested to call Dawn Tuomala who is a member of the Ladies Club to see if they are interested in sponsoring it.

The next item for discussion was an issue with snow shoveling. Chairman Donovan stated that Brent Hautanen's son had been doing it for compensation, but this week Steve Elliott put in for compensation for himself for the shoveling. Selectman Condra stated that if we allowed him to shovel then we should pay him. Selectman Swanson disagrees; stating that we shouldn't pay him extra to do so. Dan and Bill agreed that there are line items in the budget for shoveling at the Town Hall and Police Station. Bill compared it to a situation with the Water Superintendent. Selectman Swanson stated that this discussion goes back to last week's conversation. He stated that the Board needs be clear on what we are paying the employees to do. He feels that Mr. Elliott is authorizing a payment to himself by asking for additional compensation for shoveling. Rick feels that this type of thing needs to be cleaned up and done in a fair way; maybe a high school kid needs a job. Chairman Donovan stated that since Steve did it this once he should be paid for it. Selectman Condra and Selectman Swanson did not think that Steve should be paid extra for shoveling the walkway.

Dan suggested that Chief Hautanen might be able to contract with someone for shoveling at the Police Station. Selectman Condra noted that the DPW is responsible for the Town sidewalks and Rick stated that the Town shouldn't be paying extra for what is their responsibility anyway.

Selectman Swanson suggested that this might be a good time to schedule reviews for Department Heads. He would like to get this process started while Dan is still on the Board. The Board agreed to proceed as requested by Rick with initial reviews scheduled for Steve, Brent, Gary, and Ray within the next four successive weeks.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:52P.M. by Selectman Condra, seconded by Chairman Donovan, followed by a vote with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted;
Pamela L. Atwood,
Recording Secretary